Ombudsman Complaint Codes

A complaint is about a problem of commission or omission.

Residents' Rights

A. Abuse, Gross Neglect, Exploitation

- Abuse: physical (including corporal punishment)
- Abuse: sexual
- Abuse: verbal/psychological (including punishment, seclusion)
- 4. Financial exploitation (severe complaints)
- 5. Gross neglect (use categories F & G for non-willful forms of neglect)
- 6. Resident-to-resident physical or sexual abuse
- 7. Not used

B. Access to Information by Resident or Resident's Representative

- 8. Access: own records
- 9. Access by or to ombudsman/visitors
- 10. Access to facility survey, staffing reports, license
- 11. Information: advance directive
- Information: medical condition, treatment and any changes
- Information: rights, benefits, services, the resident's right to complain
- 14. Information communicated in understandable language
- 15. Not used

C. Admission, Transfer, Discharge, Eviction

- 16. Admission contract and/or procedure
- 17. Appeal process: absent, not followed
- 18. Bed hold: written notice, refusal to readmit
- 19. Discharge/eviction (including abandonment)
- 20. Admission discrimination: condition, disability
- 21. Admission discrimination: Medicaid status
- 22. Room assignment/change, intra-facility transfer
- 23. Not used

D. Autonomy, Choice, Preference, Exercise of Rights, Privacy

- 24. Choose personal physician, pharmacy, hospice, other health care provider
- 25. Confinement of facility against will (illegally)
- 26. Dignity, respect, staff attitudes
- 27. Exercise preference and choice and/or civil and religious rights, individual's right to smoke
- 28. Exercise right to refuse care/treatment
- 29. Language barrier in daily routine
- 30. Participate in care planning by resident and/or designated surrogate
- 31. Privacy: telephone, visitors, couples, mail
- 32. Privacy: treatment, confidentiality
- 33. Response to complaints
- 34. Reprisal, retaliation
- 35. Not used

E. Financial, Property (except for exploitation)

- 36. Billing and charges: notice, approval, questionable, accounting wrong or denied (includes overcharge of private pay residents)
- 37. Personal funds: mismanaged, access and information denied, deposits and other money not returned (report criminal-level misuse of personal funds under A.4)
- 38. Personal property lost, stolen, used by others, destroyed, withheld from resident
- 39. Not used

Resident Care

F. Care

- 40. Accidental or injury of unknown origin, falls, improper handling
- 41. Failure to respond to requests for assistance, call lights
- 42. Care plan/resident assessment: inadequate, failure to follow plan or physician orders
- 43. Contracture
- 44. Medications: administration, organization
- 45. Personal hygiene (includes nail care and oral hygiene) and adequacy of dressing and grooming
- 46. Physician services (including podiatrist)
- 47. Pressure sores, not turned
- 48. Symptoms unattended (including pain, pain not managed), no notice to others of changes in condition
- 49. Toileting, incontinent care
- 50. Tubes: neglect of catheter, gastric, NG tube
- Wandering, failure to accommodate/monitor exit seeking behavior
- 52. Not used

G. Rehabilitation or Maintenance of Function

- 53 Assistive devices or equipment
- 54. Bowel and bladder training
- 55. Dental services
- 56. Mental health, psychosocial services
- 57. Range of motion, ambulation
- 58. Therapies: physical, occupational, speech
- 59. Vision and hearing
- 60. Not used

H. Restraints: Chemical and Physical

- 61. Physical restraint: assessment, use, monitoring
- 62. Psychoactive drugs: assessment, use, evaluation
- 63. Not used

Quality of Life

I. Activities and Social Services

- 64 Activities: choice and appropriateness
- 65. Community interaction, transportation
- 66. Resident conflict (including roommates)
- 67. Social services: availability/appropriateness (use G.56 for mental health, psychosocial counseling/service)
- 68. Not used

J. Dietary

- 69. Assistance in eating or assistive devices
- 70. Fluid availability/hydration
- 71. Food service: quantity, quality, variation, choice, condiments, utensils, menu
- 72. Snacks, time between meals, late/missed meals
- 73. Temperature of food
- 74. Therapeutic diet
- 75. Weight loss due to inadequate nutrition
- 76. Not Used

Ombudsman Complaint Codes

Form 8619 and 8620 Attachment November 2011

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K. Environment/Safety

- 77. Air/environment: temperature and quality (heating, cooling, ventilation, water), noise
- 78. Cleanliness, pests, general housekeeping
- Equipment/buildings: disrepair, hazard, poor lighting, fire safety, not secure
- 80. Furnishings, storage for residents
- 81. Infection control
- 82. Laundry: lost, condition
- 83. Odors
- 84. Space for activities, dining
- 85. Supplies and linens
- 86. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility

Administration

L. Policies, Procedures, Attitudes, Resources

- 87. Abuse investigation/reporting (including failure to report)
- 88. Administrator(s) unresponsive, unavailable
- 89. Grievance procedure (use C for transfer, discharge appeals)
- Inappropriate or illegal policies, practices, record keeping
- 91. Insufficient funds to operate
- 92. Operator inadequately trained
- 93. Offering inappropriate level of care (for ALFs)
- 94. Resident or family council interfered with, not supported
- 95. Not used

M. Staffing

- 96. Communication, language barrier
- 97. Shortage of staff
- 98. Staff training
- 99. Staff turn-over, over-use of nursing pools
- 100. Staff: unresponsive, unavailable
- 101. Supervision
- 102. Eating assistants

Problems with Outside Agency, System, or People (not against the facility)

N. Certification/Licensing Agency

- 103. Access to information (including survey)
- 104. Complaint, response to
- 105. Decertification/closure
- 106. Sanction (including intermediate)
- 107. Survey process
- 108. Survey process: ombudsman participation
- 109. Transfer or eviction hearing
- 110. Not used

O. State Medicaid Agency

- 111. Access to information, application
- 112. Denial of eligibility
- 113. Non-covered services
- 114. Personal Needs Allowance (PNA)
- 115. Services
- 116. Not used

P. System/Others

- Abuse, neglect, abandonment by family member, friend, guardian or while on visit out of facility, any other person
- 118. Bed shortage: placement
- 119. Facilities operating without a license
- 120. Family conflict; interference
- 121 Financial exploitation or neglect by family or other not affiliated with facility
- 122. Legal: guardianship, conservatorship, power of attorney, wills
- 123. Medicare
- Mental health, developmental disabilities (including PASRR)
- 125. Problems with resident's physician/assistant
- 126. Protective Service agency
- 127. SSA, SSI, VA, other benefits/agencies
- 128. Request for less restrictive placement

Q. Complaints about services in settings other than longterm care facilities or by outside provider

- 129. Home care
- 130. Hospital or hospice
- Public or other congregate housing not providing personal care
- 132. Services from outside provider
- 133. Not used